

championship for the United States Chess Federation. The UTRGV chess team advanced to the President's Cup by placing in the top four at the Pan-American Intercollegiate Team Chess Championship.

Under the leadership of Coach Bartek Maciejka, the team, composed of Grandmasters Calors Antonio Hevia Alejano, Vladimir Belous, Kamil Dragun, Hovhannes Gabuzyan, and Andrey Stukopin, won their first championship over five-time consecutive champion Webster University, two-time champion Texas Tech, and St. Louis University. UTRGV has a history of success, finishing in second place at a previous tournament.

The UTRGV Chess Club competes at the state, national, and international levels. The group also helps promote chess within the local community by organizing tournaments, camps, and chess classes.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor the UTRGV Chess Club today. I wish them luck in future competitions and congratulate them on their national championship.

**INADEQUATE WASTEWATER
TREATMENT—ENVIRONMENTAL
INJUSTICE IN AMERICA**

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2018

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the pervasive and ongoing environmental injustice affecting the citizens of the 7th Congressional District of Alabama. Many residents of the Black Belt depend on septic tanks for sewage disposal. Because 35–45 percent of residents in the Black Belt face poverty, many cannot afford spending thousands of dollars on a septic tank and the upkeep it requires.

As a result, many have turned to a far less expensive but more alarming alternative: using “straight pipes” to transfer human waste from the home directly to their backyards. This means that folks going for a walk and children playing in their yards are in direct contact with sewage and human waste. During heavy rains, these constituents are left helpless in defending not only their homes, but their health from the effects of raw sewage and human waste. The heavy rains forces waste to go back up pipes and back into homes. The issue of inadequate wastewater treatment is not just a problem in Alabama. It is a problem in communities throughout our country. Additionally, this issue is causing dire health consequences. Several studies have identified parasites specifically in Lowndes County, Alabama. In our great country, the presence of diseases found in third world nations is unacceptable. Wastewater management and other environmental concerns that exacerbate poverty must be addressed.

Most recently, the United Nations weighed in on this issue. After visiting parts of the Black Belt and other impoverished areas in America in December of 2017, United Nations Special Rapporteur Philip Alston was baffled that such a developed and advanced country like the United States could allow its most impoverished to live in such awful conditions. The UN report has confirmed what I have known for a long time: that inadequate waste-

water treatment is a persistent issue in poverty stricken communities. I have been working to address this problem by helping secure an additional \$1.8 billion in funding for wastewater infrastructure in addition to introducing the Rural Septic Tank Access Act. This Act would provide adequate resources for rural families to afford proper septic systems.

UN Ambassador Nikki Haley publicly stated that the UN report and its conclusion about poverty in America was “patently ridiculous” and questioned why poverty in the U.S. needed to be examined. I personally invite Ambassador Haley to my district to witness firsthand the poverty and systemic environmental concerns that millions of Americans experience and suffer from every single day.

Our nation cannot boast such greatness if those suffering the most are left behind. As a proud product of Selma, I know tenacity and grit is commonplace among the great folks of the 7th Congressional District. But to be able to overcome obstacles, basic needs must be met and health concerns should be addressed. We have no option but to stand firm in our fight on the very real and pervasive poverty all over rural America and in the area I call home.

**IN RECOGNITION OF DAVID
PORTMAN**

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2018

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize David Portman for his immeasurable contributions to the community and to congratulate him as he receives the Distinguished Leadership Award at Hollywood Golf Club's 2018 Benefit for the Jewish Federation in the Heart of New Jersey. Mr. Portman's philanthropy and professional accomplishments are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

President of Triad Group, a development, construction and management company, Mr. Portman is an accomplished and respected businessman in New Jersey. For more than 35 years, Triad Group has completed numerous projects, including medical facilities, legal offices, and residential properties. In addition to his professional work, Mr. Portman is an active member and leader in the Jewish community. He currently serves on the Leaders Council for the Jewish Federation in the Heart of New Jersey and has previously served as President of the Jewish Federation of Monmouth County, as Vice President of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society and as Regional Chair of Operation Renewal, among others.

Combining his expertise as a developer with his compassionate support of the Jewish community, Mr. Portman has committed years to the construction of The Jewish Home for Rehabilitation and Nursing. This new facility will fulfill Mr. Portman's mission to not only provide necessary medical care to patients, but to also maintain their connection to the Jewish faith and customs. Mr. Portman's vision and respect for the comfort of these patients and their families is truly admirable.

Once again, I sincerely hope my colleagues will join me in honoring David Portman for his dedicated leadership and support of the Jewish community.

TRIBUTE TO THE BRILLIANT LIFE
OF DR. THADDEUS C.
RADZILOWSKI

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2018

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the bipartisan Polish Caucus, I rise to pay tribute to the brilliant life and unique contribution to scholarship of Dr. Thaddeus C. Radzilowski who passed away on July 20, 2018 at the age of 80.

Dr. Radzilowski was the co-founder and President of the largest Polish American think tank in the United States known as the Piast Institute founded in Hamtramck, MI. An academic giant in his field, he taught at several prestigious universities including the University of Michigan, Madonna University, Heidelberg College, Southwest Minnesota State University, and finally as President of St. Mary College.

He was a prolific leader in the Polish American community, who uniquely understood the importance of preserving Polish-American heritage in the United States. He held a piercing dedication to accurately and painstakingly recount the sacrificial history of Poland, its people, and its diaspora. The history of Poland, often under-presented, resulted from the annihilation by the Russian military squads (NKVD) of over 23,000 of its preeminent leaders in academia, the military, and religious and community life. Those who would have recorded the 20th century's most bloodied battles were annihilated, making Dr. Radzilowski's scholarship all the more critical.

Under his leadership, the Piast Institute made significant contributions to the study of Central and Eastern Europe including publishing articles and school curricula, convening key experts, presenting exhibitions, and mentoring the next generation of leaders in his field. Thanks to his dedication, he was the recipient of countless awards including the Cavaliers Cross of the Polish Order of Merit presented to him by the Polish President.

A man committed to serving others, Dr. Radzilowski served with dignity and honor in the U.S. Armed Forces in Vietnam. He truly embodied America's values which bind us.

Mr. Speaker, please allow me to join hundreds of thousands of grateful Polish Americans in my district and across the United States in applauding his remarkable career and exemplary life. His legacy will continue to guide and inspire generations to come. That is why I am honored to fly an American flag over the Capitol in his name.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2018

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for the vote yesterday on H.R. 2345, the National Suicide Hotline Improvement Act (Roll no. 366), I would have voted “aye.”

Additionally, had I been present for the vote on H.R. 4881, the Precision Agriculture